

GERMANS RETREATING AFTER FAILURE TO BREAK FRENCH CENTER

Armies Which One Week Ago Commenced Series of Violent Assaults on the French Find Their Efforts Are Futile

ARE EVACUATING VITRY LE FRANCOIS

Retirement is Made Imperative by Continued Retreat of the German Right Wing and Defeat of the Army Corps

[ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCH]
LONDON, Sept. 12.—The German armies, which one week ago today commenced a series of violent attempts to break through the French center, have found their efforts futile, are evacuating Vitry Le Francois, which was to pivot their offensive, where they had fortified already strong northern positions and have retired northward. This retirement was made imperative by the continued retreat of the German right wing, which is now somewhere northwest of Rheims, and the defeat of the army corps which was operating just east of Vitry Le Francois around Reims and Sedan, which in its hurry to join the retirement left a quantity of war material behind.

The Germans in the Argonne district likewise have begun to fall back, so that the pressure on the forts to the southwest of Verdun, which a Berlin report said the Germans had commenced to bombard, should be relieved. In Lorraine too, the French claim to have won further successes and to have been enabled to straighten out a line along that frontier. They occupied territory east of Forest Champenoise, Gerberville, Resmeville and Saint Die, thus getting in closer touch with their troops, which since the early days of the war, have held a bit of German territory in front of Colmar.

Apparently the Germans, who sent their best armies further west to take part in the advance on Paris, have found the mountains of Moselle and Vosges, where the French are in strong positions, too hard a nut to crack. While the French troops say that the French army is following up all these successes, it would appear that their most serious driving movement is taking place against the German right wing, which since Saturday last traveled north faster than it went south. On Friday this wing, which is composed of General Von Kluck's army, and part of General Von Buelow's corps, occupied the line which follows the river Vesle and the railway from Soissons through Fismes to the mountains immediately south of Rheims.

Today, however, these troops must have gone still further north or east as a British official report says the British cavalry reached that line today, between Soissons and Fismes and that a number of prisoners were captured. It is believed that Gen. Sir John French, who won a reputation as one of the greatest cavalry leaders in the South African war, will cling to the heels of the retreating army just as long as his men and horses can stand the strain. It is possible too, that he will get assistance from the French cavalry, which has not yet been heard of to any great extent during this war and which is credited with being the equal of any in the world.

A French official report refers to this retirement as a general retreat and from the rate at which the Germans are traveling it would seem to be such, although military experts are of the opinion they may make a stand or a counter offensive when reinforcements which have been sent from Belgium reach them.

It is believed the portions of the German army which are falling back on Reims are almost certain to put up a hard fight in the forest of Argonne.

"LOVE" NOTES ON PROJECTILES

LONDON, Sept. 12.—"The projectiles which we sent into German ships in the Heligoland battle were covered with chalked messages, such as 'Love to der Kaiser' and 'Regards from England,'" writes Gunner George Brown, in a letter received in London with the mail from the fleet.

"The sight of sinking German ships was gloriously terrible. There wasn't a sign of fright on the part of any of our crew. From the youngest to the oldest, every man did his duty earnestly, eagerly and with a smile."

KAISER CONSIDERING PEACE PROPOSITION

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12.—Emperor William has had under consideration for several days, it was learned tonight, an informal inquiry from the United States government as to whether Germany desires to discuss terms of peace with her foes. Up to a late hour no reply had come, but on its tender depends to some extent whether the informal peace movement inaugurated just a week ago tonight can be pursued further with Great Britain, Russia and France. The inquiry was not a formal one such as the president's original tender of his good offices; but was an effort of an official character to determine whether Germany's reported willingness to talk peace is based on fact.

where military men expect General Joffre, French commander-in-chief to make his defensive at the outset, which affords some splendid positions against attack. The Belgian army has become very active again, according to official reports tonight, and is advancing from the forts around Antwerp. It is apparently divided into sections and has recaptured both Aerschot and Malines, where there have been so many engagements the past few weeks.

Servians continue their successes against the Austrians, according to Russian reports.

Australia and New Zealand seemingly have designs on all the German islands in the South Pacific. The Archipelago, which they are now occupying, has a population of 200,000 assigned to the German sphere of influence by agreement with Great Britain in 1885.

The Duchess of Marlborough, formerly Miss Consuelo Vanderbilt, who like other American women who married Englishmen are most active in endeavoring to alleviate the suffering caused by the war, is to head another committee which has undertaken to find employment to provide for domestic servants, many of whom are out of employment through retrenchment on the part of the householders.

The Duchess of Westminster volunteered to serve with the Red Cross in the field and her services were accepted by the war office.

Germans Still Retreating
LONDON, Sunday, Sept. 13.—A dispatch to the Reuter Telegram company from Paris gives an official statement issued at 11 o'clock Saturday night, as follows:

"Germans are still retreating before the allies' left wing. They also are retreating in the center, before the French right wing. The French have recaptured the city of Lunville."

The Belgian legation stated that the Belgians had destroyed the railway between Louvain and Tirlemont, thus cutting off German communication between Brussels and Liege, and that Malines and Aerschot have been retaken.

"It is asserted that after the recent battle at Termonde, the Belgians buried 1233 Germans," says a dispatch from the Ostend correspondent to Reuter's.

"The enemy suffered greatly at the hands of the Belgians," the dispatch continues, "and was heard today in the direction of Courtrai and Waerchhem."

The correspondent of the Reuter Telegram company at Meaux sends the following story of the fighting in that vicinity:

"The Anglo-French forces which

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY RED CROSS NURSES ARE ON THEIR WAY TO THE WAR



Red Cross nurses and doctors on board Hamburg-American liner Hamburg just before sailing.

Loaded with 150 Red Cross nurses, 60 doctors, and tons of absorbent and non-absorbent cotton, gauze and hospital equipment, the Hamburg-American liner Hamburg is now on its way to Europe, where the nurses and doctors will minister to the sick and wounded on the battlefield. Miss Helen Scott Hay is general superintendent in charge of the nurses.

EXPLOSION OF BITULITHIC IS CAUSE OF FIRE

Plant of California & Arizona Construction Company Badly Damaged by Flames Which Are Extinguished With Sand

The explosion of about 2,000 gallons of hot bitulithic cement in two twenty-five barrel melting pots at the plant of the California and Arizona Construction company, Twelfth avenue and Lincoln street, at 3:20 o'clock yesterday afternoon precipitated a fire which for intensity of heat, black smoke producing qualities, has never been equaled in this city. The nature of the fire was such that the fire department, although promptly upon the scene and striving in every way to do effective work was able to make but little impression and was obliged to devote its attention to preventing a spread of the flames while employees of the company adopted the only effective plan, that of covering the molten and blazing cement with wagon load after wagon load of dry sand. About 600 barrels of the bitulithic cement, or 137 tons, representing a value in the neighborhood of \$30 per ton, or a total of more than \$4000 were destroyed, together with the lower containing the separating screen, storage bin, mixer platform and weighing scales, representing another \$2,000 or more.

Just what caused the explosion is a mystery. The plant was not in use, the crew having left twenty minutes previously. The machinery was still being run as part of the cooling off process, but there were no employees at the plant excepting the engineer and two or three helpers. When the explosions occurred none of the helpers were in the immediate vicinity of the melting pots and none was injured.

Within a minute or two after the

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AUSTRIAN ALLIES OF THE GERMANS SUFFER FROM THE RUSSIANS

[ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCH]

PARIS, Sept. 12.—A Havas agency dispatch from Petrograd says yesterday's news of the defeat of the Austrian left wing near Tomaszow has been confirmed. The Austrians were surrounded in a triangle formed by the Vistula river and a tributary, the San, and the wing was crushed before the arrival of the Germans, who came by forced marches to aid the Austrians. Inadequate bridges delayed the Germans and made the defeat of their allies inevitable.

The Russians followed up this victory by pursuing the retreating Austrians twenty miles and taking up positions in the fortified localities of Opole and Tournobine. The Russians suffered heavy casualties in taking Tomaszow. The Germans lost heavily when they were repulsed in the vicinity of Mysinec and Ghorzele in Russian Poland on the frontier of Prussia.

Seven hundred German prisoners have arrived at Brienne-Le-Chateau. They expressed surprise that the British were fighting against Germany. Another party of fifty Uhlans surrendered at Montreux in a starving condition.

An official statement tonight says: "The German retreat is very rapid and the pursuit is vigorous. The Germans have abandoned many mortars."

LONDON, Sept. 12.—The Russians continue to strike at the Austrian left, in Galicia, according to reports from Petrograd and they have succeeded in smashing it. The object in concentrating the attack on this wing of the Austrian army is obvious for the Russians have decided more than anything else at the present time to put the Austrian army entirely out of the fight before more German reinforcements can come to its aid. What remains of the Austrian left is said to be in an angle between the rivers Vistula and San, where the Russians hope to force a surrender. Of the Prussian and Posen campaign nothing has been divulged to date, but official reports say the Russians are operating before Posen and Breslau and have occupied Tarnobrzeg and Piotrkow. It is thought, however, they will satisfy themselves

with trying to hold the present positions both in Prussia and Posen until they have attempted to more completely dispose of the Austrians. In addition, with the arrival of the rainy season, Russian Poland will be transformed into a marsh in which the Germans will find it impossible to move.

The Prague newspaper Bohemia, according to an Amsterdam dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph company, publishes an interview with a badly wounded Austrian captain concerning the Serbian methods of warfare.

The Austrian says that many Serbians surrendered merely in order to give misleading information to their captors or to commit assassination. Some prisoners threw hand grenades at the Austrian patrol accompanying them and managed to escape owing to the confusion created by such an unexpected attack.

Even women, the Austrian captain declares, have thrown these grenades at the Austrian troops. He credits the Serbian infantry with showing great courage, but exhibiting very poor marksmanship. Their artillery service, however, was excellent.

Austrians Lose Heavily
ROME, via London, Sept. 12.—The Nish correspondent of the Messagero states the Austrians lost 500 killed and 500 wounded at Mitrokhina, Serbia. The Austrians continue to retreat, leaving behind hundreds of pieces of artillery and thousands of prisoners.

WORKS ON VACATION

[ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCH]

CORNISH, N. H., Sept. 12.—The president got down to work within a few minutes after his arrival despite the fact that he is supposed to be on a vacation. He remained in the study of the "Summer White House" while members of his family were out on a long automobile ride. The president is not understood to be finally committed to the proposed three per cent tax on freight.

AMERICANS STILL COMING

Ambassador Page Reports Many Refugees Arriving and Leaving London

[ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCH]

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12.—Ambassador Page in London reported to the state department that during the week just ended about 5000 people have arrived in London from the continent bound for the United States and about 15,000 have sailed from English ports.

The relief committee in London, the ambassador said, has given financial assistance to nearly 2300 during the week. The total number who received financial assistance to date is reported to be approximately \$800.

REPLIES TO THE PORTE

[ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCH]

CONSTANTINOPLE, Sept. 12.—Several great powers have presented a note to the Turkish government in reply to the communication of the sublime Porte notifying these governments of the abrogation of capitulations involving the territorial rights and privileges of foreigners in Turkey. The replies set forth that as these capitulations are a matter of treaty abrogation they will not be recognized without the consent of all parties to the treaty.

JAMES B. HAGGIN DIES

[ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCH]

NEWPORT, Sept. 12.—James B. Haggin, of New York, capitalist and horseman, died at his summer home here tonight. He had been ill of heart trouble for about two weeks.

WANT WILSON'S APPROVAL OF TAX ON FREIGHT

House Democrats Believe President's Sanction of 3 Per Cent. Clause of War Revenue Bill is Needed Before Introduction

[ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCH]

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12.—The house democrats want President Wilson openly to approve the proposed 3 per cent. tax on freight bills before the war revenue bill carrying out that provision is introduced. That the force of his approval is necessary is agreed by the administration leaders. It is said that Postmaster General Burleson assured House Leader Underwood the president would openly endorse the plan when he returned to Washington from New Hampshire next week. Underwood is going to hold the bill up until then.

The insistence of democratic leaders upon an official explanation from the White House is based, it is said, on a desire not to assume all the responsibility of the freight tax in the face of lively opposition from many democrats. Those opposing insist the party should tax luxuries and not directly or indirectly affect the price of necessities, particularly of food products. It is also proposed to renew efforts to raise the income tax 1/2 per cent, without altering the exemption figures.

The elimination of \$18,000,000 from the rivers and harbors bill appropriation by the senate commerce committee as an additional emergency relief to the treasury, failed to appease opponents of the measure, and the filibuster against it was resumed on the floor. After the committee announced a total reduction from \$53,000,000 to \$35,000,000, Senator Burton declared the fight would continue.

"The reductions would not diminish by more than a few hundred thousand the expense of the pending rivers and harbors improvements," said Burton. "A very large number of inconsequential creeks and streams on the Atlantic coast and elsewhere still occupy a prominent place."

WARSHIPS NEAR SAN DIEGO

Some Put in Near Coast Under Cover of Darkness Departing at Dawn

[ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCH]

SAN DIEGO, Sept. 12.—Five belligerent war ships, the German cruisers Leipzig, Nürnberg and Emden, the Japanese cruiser Idzumo and the Australian cruiser New Castle, were reported today to be within a radius of 250 miles of San Diego. The Leipzig, according to fishermen returning to port this morning, came in near Point Loma at daybreak under the cover of a light fog, and disappeared to sea when the mists began to lift.

The Emden was authoritatively reported off the Lower California coast, in the vicinity of Pedos Santos bay this morning and probably joined forces with the Leipzig. The Nürnberg was sighted Friday afternoon cruising southward off Point Arguello evidently heading for the Santa Barbara channel.

FRANK CHANCE TO QUIT

[ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCH]

NEW YORK, Sept. 12.—Frank Chance will not manage the New York American league club after the close of this season and may quit on Tuesday. A physical clash between Chance and former Chief of Police Devery, one of the owners of the club, was narrowly averted in the club house, after today's game.

CARRANZA SAYS TROUBLE TALES ARE NOT TRUE

Constitutionalist Agency in Washington Announces Receipt of Message from Chief Denying Reports of Disturbances in Mexico

VERA CRUZ HAS NOT BEEN CLOSED

Denial is Also Made That Number of Policemen Were Shot by Carranza Soldiers in Mexico City Recently

[ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCH]

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12.—The constitutionalist agency announced the receipt of a message from Carranza, denying the recent reports of trouble in Mexico City and also that a single federal officer has been shot. It said it is not true that the port of Vera Cruz has been closed. "Alarming reports brought to my attention as Mexican news have no foundation in fact," said the Carranza message.

"For instance the report that a number of policemen were shot in Mexico City is absolutely untrue. What actually occurred was a street brawl between the police and a number of constitutionalist troops, who were carousing. The affair was handled without difficulty and no further consequence ever attended it. Not a single federal officer has been shot. On the contrary the greater majority of them are now enjoying the fullest liberty consistent with existing condition."

"It is not true that the port of Vera Cruz has been closed. 'Peace and the best of harmony' now prevails throughout the zone controlled by the constitutionalists which virtually covers the entire republic. Little friction attended the mustering out of the federal army. It was peacefully dispersed."

"The exaggerated reports relative to Zapatista activities are unfounded. Small marauding bands acting merely on their own initiative in the states of Puebla and Mexico have been routed and all exterminated. 'The constitutionalists are working amicably together with the single purpose of establishing permanent peace and a stable government and all reports as to divisions in our ranks are false.'"

"General Villa is working in perfect harmony and genuine subordination. By reason of his laudable patriotic attitude and in view of his high merit, I have just promoted him to the rank of division general."

"The stability of the new government is fully guaranteed by the support of an army of 100,000 men splendidly equipped and animated with a spirit of patriotism."

A trade boom in Monterey, Mexico, was reported at the state department today by the consul general as due to the reopening of the railroads. Exports are being rapidly moved from the district and large consignments of American goods are arriving daily.

Consular reports from Tampico present the contrary conditions, however, and previous warnings to Americans looking for employment not to go to Tampico were repeated. Many are unemployed and destitute in this district.

Ask Troops Removed

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 12.—General Obregon last night telegraphed to Carranza a request from Villa that the constitutionalist chief request Washington to remove United States troops from Vera Cruz.

FRENCH DOWN GERMAN PLANE

PARIS, Sept. 12.—News has just been received here of an exciting air battle in the vicinity of Troyes. A German aeroplane threw several bombs into the city and a French machine arose and gave chase. After a thrilling pursuit for fifteen miles the French aeroplane overtook the German air craft near Piney, where the engagement ensued.

The French machine soon secured the advantage in position. Immediately afterward the German aeroplane was precipitated to the earth and the two officers on board were killed.